



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE**



**EASTERN VIRGINIA RIVERS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE COMPLEX  
James River and Presquile National Wildlife Refuges**

**Annual Activity Report, Fiscal Year 2008**

**A. HIGHLIGHTS**

**B. CLIMATIC CONDITIONS**

1. Fee Title
2. Easement
3. Other

**D. PLANNING**

1. Master Plan
2. Management Plans

June 25 & 27: Strategic Habitat Conservation Planning on-line training courses involving Refuge Project Leader, Joe McCauley, Biologist Sandy Spencer, and ORP Cyrus Brame took place. Focusing on developing a Chesapeake Bay model for use in other parts of the country.

3. Public Participation
4. Compliance with Environmental and Cultural Resource Mandates
5. Research and Investigations-

6. Other

## **E. ADMINISTRATION**

1. Personnel

2. Youth Programs

3. Other Manpower Programs

4. Volunteer Program

5. Funding

6. Safety

7. Technical Assistance

8. Other

## **F. HABITAT MANAGEMENT**

1. General

2. Wetlands

4. Croplands

5. Grasslands

6. Other Habitats

7. Grazing

9. Fire Management-

10. Pest Control-

11. Water Rights

June 24: Refuge Project Leader, Joe McCauley, Biologist Sandy Spencer, GFO Tylen Dean?, GFO Kim Smith, Supervisor to the GFO, Karen Mayne, and ORP Cyrus Brame met with Corp of Engineer Cornel and representatives from Vulcan Materials to have a site tour of the proposed mooring ball locations adjacent to Presquile NWR. The group also went to view the Jones Neck location.

**G. WILDLIFE**

2. Threatened and/or Endangered Species

3. Waterfowl

4. Marsh and Water Birds

5. Shorebirds, Gulls, Terns and Allied Species

6. Raptors

June 23: Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries Director, Bob Duncan and guest joined ORP Brame for his biweekly James River NWR eagle survey. The Director was impressed with the viewing of 43 eagles and the pristen habitat of Powells Creek.

July 8: ORP Brame toured State conservation leaders along the shores of the lower James River, in particular the James River NWR. In an effort to promote the importance of the Bald Eagle and other species of interest in the area, Executive Director of the VA Department of Game and Inland Fisheries invited several key leaders on the trip prior to their annual state conservation meeting at the VCU Rice Center. Participants included: Secretary of Natural Resources, Preston Bryant, Assistant Secretary of Natural Resources Nicki Rovner, College of William and Mary, Center for Conservation Biology professors Brian Watts, and Mitchell Byrd. Dozens of eagles were sited and their protective needs discussed during the hour-long boat ride.



Secretary of Natural Resources, Preston Bryant (L), state government staff and others enjoy viewing eagles from FWS pontoon boat trip

Sept 10: ORP Brame observed an adult bald eagle attempting to lift the carcass of raccoon. The observation occurred on Flowerdew Hundred Road approximately 150 yards from Route 10. The eagle was only able to lift the dead animal briefly from the road and immediately dropped it on the edge of the marsh. The eagle then flew to a snag in the western marsh and perched.

## 8. Game Animals

### Other Reptiles-

June 26: VCU pathologist, Dr. Joy Ware continued her herpetological studies at Presquile NWR with a group of six volunteer snake hunters. The group produced three snakes and approximately twenty skins. Samples, pictures, measurements were taken of the live captures. All snakes were released in the same location they were captured.

??? ORP Brame observed a box turtle swimming from Presquile NWR's western bank to Curles Neck Marsh.

## H. PUBLIC USE

### 1. General

### 2. Outdoor Classrooms – Students

### 3. Outdoor Classrooms – Teachers

4. Interpretive Foot Trails

5. Interpretive Tour Routes

June 24: A group from the Maymont Foundation toured Presquile NWR from the Refuge's pontoon boat. Eleven participants viewed 15 eagles during their trip around the island. The group also had an opportunity to explore the island as it docked for about an hour. Maymont will be opening a new live eagle exhibit in Sept. using unreleasable birds.

6. Interpretive Exhibits/Demonstrations

7. Other Interpretative Programs

8. Hunting-

9. Fishing

11. Wildlife Observation-

17. Law Enforcement

18. Cooperating Associations

**I. EQUIPMENT AND FACILITIES**

1. New Construction-

2. Rehabilitation-

3. Major Maintenance

4. Equipment Utilization and Replacement-

5. Communications Systems

6. Computer Systems

8. Other

**J. OTHER ITEMS**

1. Cooperative Programs-

3. Training and Items of Interest